Amendment dated: April 19, 2004

Response to Notice of Improper Amendment dated: February 10, 2004

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

## 1-6. (Canceled)

- 7. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising consisting of the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 8. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:
  - a transcription promoter;
  - a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and a transcription terminator.
- 9. (Original) A cultured cell comprising the expression vector of claim 8.

## 10-11. (Canceled)

- 12. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein, said protein comprising a secretory peptide from residue 1 to residue 21 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the protein is secreted.
- 13. (Currently amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:
  - a transcription promoter;
  - a DNA segment encoding the fusion protein according to of claim 12; and a transcription terminator.
- 14. (Original) A cultured cell comprising the expression vector of claim 13, wherein the cell expresses the DNA segment and produces the encoded fusion protein.

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15.-19. (Canceled)